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Showdown Set On Fate of Watchdog Unit

United Press International

Chairman William L. Dawson of the House Government Operations Committee stood firm yesterday on his plan to abolish a subcommittee on freedom of information.

His decision apparently wiped out prospects for compromise and set the stage for a showdown vote in which all Committee Republicans are expected to unite in an effort to save the Subcommittee. They have called Democrat Dawson's action "a disservice to the country."

The Illinois lawmaker, in a letter to Committee members yesterday, outlined anew his intent to merge the Committee's 10 subcommittees into seven as a necessary economy move. Eliminated in the process would be a group headed by Rep. John E. Moss (D-Calif.), heretofore charged not only with battling Government secrecy but also with overseeing the foreign aid program.

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